

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 20, 2010

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

In August 2009, the Congressional Budget Office released revised deficit projections that projected over \$9 trillion and 8.5% GDP in deficits by 2019. CBO Director Doug Elmendorf said of this projection, "Over the long term, the budget remains on an unsustainable path." We could not agree more.

In last year's budget message you stated, "We must begin the process of making the tough choices necessary to restore fiscal discipline, cut the deficit in half by the end of my first term in office, and put our Nation on sound fiscal footing."

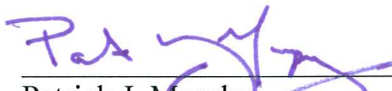
Today we are writing to request that you help fulfill that pledge by including a freeze of non-defense related discretionary spending in your upcoming Fiscal Year 2011 budget proposal.

We are in complete agreement with you that this situation calls for serious steps to be taken. While the majority of our debt and projected deficits were inherited from the Bush administration, it falls to us to put our nation back on the right track

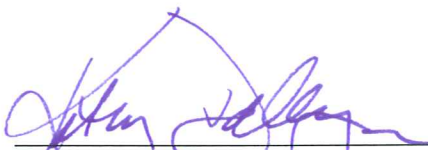
A first step is to freeze discretionary spending across all non-defense related agencies and departments. This simple freeze from the FY2010 levels will demonstrate required fiscal restraint and provide a positive step toward reducing future deficits.

More will need to be done to get our fiscal house in order, but we believe this freeze in non-defense related discretionary spending is a good place to begin. We hope you will seriously consider our request and join us in our efforts on behalf of the American taxpayer.

Sincerely,


Patrick J. Murphy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Michael A. Arcuri
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Kathleen A. Dahlkemper
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Brad Ellsworth
MEMBER OF CONGRESS